DEPICTION OF MARGINALITY IN THE SELECT NOVELS OF ANITA NAIR: A STUDY

PhD Resume Submitted to

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Format for the Research Proposal

- Objective (s) of Research;
- Hypothesis;
- Data, Scope and Limitation (s);
- Research Methodology;
- Justification for Research / Value of Research;
- Pedagogical Implications (if any);
- Tentative Chapterisation;
- Abstract of Research Topic;
- Bibliography;
- Webliography;

Introduction

Indian Writing in English has attained an independent status in the realm of Indian Literature. Wide-ranging themes are dealt with in Indian Writing in English. While this literature continues to reflect Indian culture and tradition, social values, and even Indian history through the depiction of life in India and Indians living elsewhere, recent Indian English fiction has been trying to give expression to the Indian experience of the modern predicaments. Fiction by women writers constitutes a major segment of the contemporary writing in Indian English. It provides insights, a wealth of understanding, a reservoir of meanings and a basis of discussion. Through women writers' eyes one can see a different world and with their assistance one can realize the potential of human achievement. Every appraisal of the Indian English Literature will certainly result in an appreciation of the writing of women.

Objective (s) of Research;

One of the reasons why women have in such large number taken up their pen is that it has allowed them to create their own world and set the conditions of their existence completely free from the direct interference of men. Similarly, so many women have taken to reading women's writing because it provides them with a "safe place" from which they not only explore a wide range of experience of women of the world but also identify themselves with a range of women characters and variety of their existence. Indian Writing in English by women is a distinct phenomenon today. The creative output of the Indian women writers, especially novelists, is marked by the choice of English, the medium of expression and expression of a woman's

reaction to the varied situation in which tradition and modernity clash as well as synthesize. Indian women writers are dynamic witnesses to the peculiar socio-cultural historic, political conflicts faced by women especially Indian.

These women writers have given literary work in India an unmistakable edge. They are able to sensitively portray a world that has in it women rich in substance. Their women are real flesh-and-blood protagonists who make the readers look at them with awe with their relationships to their surroundings, society, men, children, families, mental make-ups and themselves. They not only communicate with their own society but also with the global readers. Their primary task is to attempt an imaginative mediation between the traditional forces of Indian patriarchal joint family system and the new demands of modernity. They further seek to reconstruct the socio-cultural values from a woman's viewpoint.

Hypothesis:

Indian women novelists have powerfully focused light on the psyche of women of different strata in modern times of never ending existential struggle in their life. Like other novelists, Anita Nair, an eminent modern novelist, has focused on the marginalization of women in Indian society. She has the marvelous understanding of the psyche of women and therefore, she explores the world of specially women with all their overwhelming problems and challenges in her works. She empathically purports the view that even in modern time with all socio-political as well as economic achievements, the graph of woman exploitation is shockingly rising. Women, sometimes owing to the compelling situation of their life, are pushed into the net by their protectors while, at other times, their soaring ambition and will to assert their freedom, takes them into the tunnels of unimaginable sufferings.

Research Methodology.

Analytical and descriptive method would be undertaken in this research. Analytical and critical observation method would be helpful in building up the thesis.

Data, Scope and Limitation (s);

This research depends mainly on the availability of the material in the library, and moreover it is based on the analysis of editorials and on other literary articles of the newspapers, conference proceedings and journals. However, it would be a limited study of chosen author and her pieces of literary work.

Justification for Research / Value of Research:

The present research would bring greater benefits and interests for students, knowledge seekers, researchers and trainees. It would open many virgin areas in literature and provide new dimensions to marginalized literature. The research would be beneficial to upcoming researchers, teaching & learning community as it would briery for the apprehension of the depressed, deprived & marginalized section suffering for their identity and voice in the mainstream culture.

Pedagogical Implications (if any)

The present research would be helpful to the students, researchers and critics, journalists persuing their interest and education in the area of marginal and subaltern literature. It would focus on the new genre of literature as an authentic form of literature.

Tentative Chapter Scheme:

- **Introduction**
  - Brief history of Indian writing in English
  - Indian women writers
  - Marginality and Subalternity
  - Marginality in Indian English Literature

- **Biography of Author**
  - Biography of Anita Nair
  - Her Major Work
  - Critical Analysis of her works
  - Characteristics features of her writing

- **Thematic Aspects of writing**
  - Representation of Woman
  - Caste and Gender
  - Identity Crises
  - Society and Self
  - Nature

- **The Problems of Marginal & Subaltern Sect in Anita Nair's work**
- **Conclusion**

Abstract of the Research Topic

The aim of this thesis is to explore and evaluate the position of women in Anita Nair's Work. One might tend to think of women writers only in a "Mills and Boon" context, but women writers in India have proved that they are made of sterner and more serious stuff. Indian women writers have grappled with complex issues such as sensuality, servility, subjugation and society. They have handled them with a sense of balance without disregarding Indian traditions. They also re-interpret mythology by using new symbols, which subvert the canonic versions. Their works are significant in making society aware of women's demands. The first chapter, Introduction, provides some background of information on the authors and novels, presented in a wider frame of Indian literary traditions, including comments the position of female writers in India. Further two chapters survey of Anita Nair's Life and Work also observe the thematic aspects of her work.

Anita Nair is one of the finest writers in Indian Writing in English with an international reputation. She was born at Mundakottakurissi near Shoranur in Kerala State. Anita was brought up in a suburb in Chennai (Madras), Tamilnadu. Her father was with the ordinance factories. Her grandparents lived in Kerala. So, Anita made frequent visits to Kerala and these trips enabled her to know the heart of rural Kerala.

Anita was working as the creative director of an advertising agency in Bangalore when she wrote her first book, a collection of short stories called "Satyr of the Subway" (1997). This book had won her a fellowship from the Virginia Center for Creative Arts. Her second book was "The Better Man" (2000) published by Penguin India. This was the first book written by an Indian author to be published by Picador USA. Her third book "Ladies Coupe" (2001) was rated as one

of 2002's top five books of the year and was translated into more than twenty-five languages around the world. She has also written "The Puffin Book of Myths and Legends" (2004), a book for children on myths and legends. Anita has also edited "Where the Rain is Born" (2003).

Anita's writings about Kerala and her poetry have been included in "The Poetry India Collection and a British Council Poetry Workshop Anthology". She has also written a few other novels such as, "Mistress" (2003), "Adventures of Nonu, the skating squirrel" (2006), "Living Next Door to Alise" (2007) and "Magical Indian Myths" (2008). Her works also include many travelogues.

In fact, her works have been widely published in twenty seven countries to be precise and translated. Her work is not only critically acclaimed but also best-selling. She has been publishing regularly for the last seven years. She mesmerizes the readers with her evocative language and descriptions with which her novels abound.

Field Work

Field work is essential for bringing right perspective of chosen subject. It will give real dimension to the subject, moreover deprived & depressed feelings of marginalized sect views will be explored and alignment of research with reality can be made.

- Visits to various column writers, editors of newspapers, magazines etc.
- Phone Interview of writer
- Face to face interview of writer.

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